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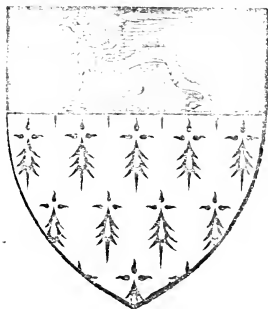
CHESTER OF BLABY,

LEICESTERSHIRE,

AND

CHESTER OF WETHERSFIELD, CONN.,

NEW ENGLAND.



COMPILED BY

ROBT. EDMOND CHESTER-WATERS, B.A.,

A Barrister of the Inner Temple, etc., etc.

(Printed for the Author.)

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Pedigree of Chester of Mass.



1550. John Chester, born in Mass., buried in
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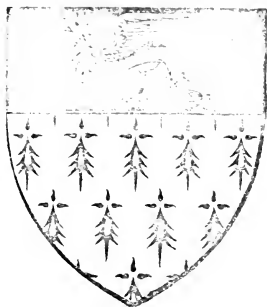
THE CHESTERS OF BLABY.

CHAPTER I.

IF faith can be placed in family traditions, which are at least as old as the reign of James I, the Chesters of Blaby, in Leicestershire, sprung from the same stock as the knightly family of Chester, of Royston, in Hertfordshire. This appears from the pedigree, which was drawn up in 1619 (evidently by a Herald) for Augustine Chester, of Blaby, and is preserved amongst Philipot's *Leicestershire Collections* in the Library of the College of Arms. It seems that this pedigree never received official sanction, for it is not recorded in Camden's Visitation of this county in 1619, although it could scarcely have been compiled for any other purpose. It is, however, one of the additional pedigrees, which are found in a copy of the Visitation at the British Museum (Harl. MSS. 1180), and are printed in the Harleian Society's Edition without any note to explain that they have been added without authority to the original MS.

The Arms here assigned to Augustine Chester are those of Sir Robert Chester, of Royston, and the compiler of the pedigree undoubtedly intended to convey that Augustine and Sir Robert sprung from the same stock. But the *Historian of Leicestershire** is mistaken in assuming that Leonard Chester of Blaby was the uncle of Sir Robert; for it is well ascertained that the first Sir Robert Chester was the son of John, and that he was born in 1510, so that if the two families really diverged from a common ancestor, it was in a generation before the recorded pedigree

* Nichols' *Hist. of Co. Leicester*, vol iv., p. 52.

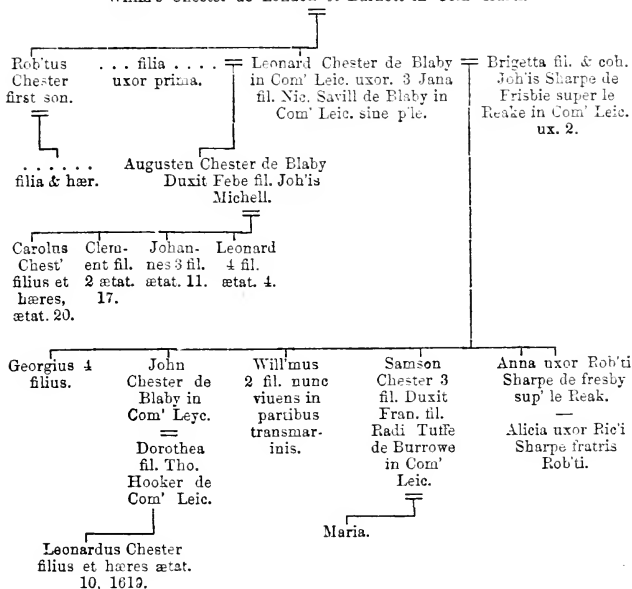


CHESTER.

Camden's Vis. of Leic: 1619.
(From Harl. Soc., Vol. 2, p. 138.)

Arms:—Ermine, on a chief sable a griffin passant with wings endorsed argent.

Willm's Chester de London et Barnett in Com' Hartf.



beginus. Both families, however, were beyond all question of Hertfordshire origin, and I have little doubt that their ancestors were tenants and dependents of the great Abbey of St. Alban's,* of which Robert Chester was the Cellarer in the reign of Richard II.†

I.

WILLIAM CHESTER of Chipping Barnet in Hertfordshire, the first recorded ancestor of the Chesters of Blaby, was a yeoman with a considerable freehold estate at Barnet, which he divided by his Will between his two sons Robert and Leonard. His wife Mawde died before him and was buried in Chipping Barnet Church, and if the directions in his Will were carried out, he was buried there beside her, when he died in February, 1565-6.

WILLIAM CHESTER, YEOMAN OF CHIPPING BARNET, HERTS.

Will dated 16 Jan. 1565-6.

To be buried in Chipping Barnet Church "as near unto my wife Mawde as may be." To my son Robert Chester the messuages called the Man, and the Rose and Crown, and also 12 acres at the back of the same, all which are now in my occupation in Chipping Barnet, and are situate between the messuages called respectively the Swan on the East and the Bull on the West side.

To my son Leonard Chester the Messuage called the Flower de Luce and other lands and messuages in Chipping Barnet, and also a silver goblet.

My son Leonard to be my executor, and Gamalion Pye to be supervisor of my Will.

Will proved in C.P.C. 28 Feb. 1565-6. [5 Crymes.]

William Chester had issue by his wife Mawde two sons.

I. ROBERT CHESTER, inherited a moiety of his father's lands at Chipping Barnet, and had issue an only daughter. According to other authorities, he had a son Robert, who left an only daughter: but it is clear that the male line of his descendants soon failed.

II. LEONARD CHESTER, of whom presently.

II.

LEONARD CHESTER, the second son of William Chester of Chipping Barnet, purchased a small estate consisting of two messuages five cottages and six and a half virgates of land in the parish of Blaby, a village four miles south of Leicester on the high road to

* *The Chesters of Chicheley*, by R. E. Chester Waters, vol. i., p. 2.

† Clutterbuck's *Hist. of Herts, Rickmansworth*.

Lutterworth. His estate extended into the neighbouring village of Countesthorpe and was held of the King as lord of the Honour of Leicester which is parcel of the Duchy of Lancaster, in free and common socage, and not in *capite*, nor by military service. This holding was rated in the books of the Duchy as of the annual value of 40 shillings beyond all reprises.

Leonard married three wives and survived them all. His first wife, whose maiden name is not recorded, was the mother of his heir, but he had issue four sons and two daughters by his second wife Bridget, who was the daughter and co-heir of John Sharpe of Frisby in Leicestershire. He married thirdly at Blaby on 12 June 1606 Jane widow of Mr. Wolle and daughter of Nicholas Savile Gent. of Blaby. His third wife had no children and died in the third year after her marriage, for she was buried at Blaby on 29 Oct. 1608. Leonard died on 8 August 1615, and was buried on 16 August at Blaby. As he was a tenant of the Duchy of Lancaster an inquest was held after his death by the King's escheator at Leicester on 28 September 1615, when the jury found that he had died a widower on 8 August preceding and that his son and heir Augustin Chester was thirty years old and upwards at the time of his father's death.

LEONARD CHESTER OF BLABY CO. LEICESTER GENT.

Will dated 1 Dec. 1614.

My body to be buried in the Parish Church of Blaby near my wife Bridget, & I give to the repairs of that church 6s. 8d.

To my Son Sampson Chester 40s. a year during his life, to be paid out of my dwelling house & three tenements at Chipping Barnet Herts.

To my son George Chester 20s. a year during his life, out of the same house & tenements.

To my son Augustine Chester the said house and tenements at Chipping Barnet & also a dwelling house in that parish called the Flower de luce now occupied by John Franklin & also all other my lands & tenements at Chipping Barnet, to hold the same during his life; & after the death of the said Augustine Chester, his wife Phoebe Chester (if she survives him) is to have one third part of the said lands & tenements for her life in lieu of jointure or dower; remainder to Charles Chester the eldest son of the said Augustine and his heirs male; remainder to Clement Chester, John Chester & Leonard Chester the second third & fourth sons of the said Augustine and their respective heirs male successively; remainder to the said Augustine Chester & his right heirs for ever.

And whereas I have already assured to my son John Chester all my lands & tenements in Blaby & Countesthorpe in the County of Leicester upon his promise (though not expressed in writing) that he will be good to his bretheren Sampson & George Chester, & be as a father to them; I now desire & charge my said son John to pay £40 within two years after my death to each of my said sons Sampson and George Chester.

To every cottier in Blaby fourpence each.

To my son Augustine my second sute of apparel; to my son Sampson my best sute, & to my son George the rest of my apparel.

And whereas by re-grant of my son John I hold one half of a yard land in Blaby for a term of years not yet expired, I give the unexpired term to my son Augustine. My two sons Sampson & George Chester to be my Executors & residuary legatees, & Mr. William Yard of Cosby, to whom I give a legacy of 10s. to be overseer of my will.

My Executors are not to require payment from my son Augustine of his debt to me for five years from this date.

Will proved at Leicester 26 August 1615.

Leonard Chester had issue by his first wife

I. AUGUSTIN CHESTER his son and heir.

He had issue by his second wife Bridget Sharpe

II. JOHN CHESTER ancestor of the Chesters of Wethersfield in New England, of whom in my next chapter.

III. WILLIAM CHESTER was living beyond seas in 1619 but is mentioned in his father's will.

IV. SAMPSON CHESTER, the 3rd son of Leonard by his second wife Bridget Sharp, was brought up to trade, and was apprenticed for seven years on 13 October 1606 to John Gilbert of Holborn, merchant taylor of London. Sampson was admitted to the freedom of the Merchant Taylors' Company* on 3 July 1615, when he set up for himself in business in the parish of St. Anne's Blackfriars. He married at St. Anne's Church on 26 Nov. 1617 Frances daughter of Ralph Tough *alias* Tuffe of Barrow in Leicestershire, by whom he had issue four children. Sampson died before 1627, and his widow Frances married at St. Mary Magdalene's Bermondsey on 25 Feb. 1627-8 Thomas Smith of that parish. Sampson Chester left issue three daughters and a son, viz. :—

1. MARGARET CHESTER, baptized at St. Anne's, Blackfriars, 28 Oct. 1618.
2. JOHANNA CHESTER, baptized at St. Anne's Blackfriars, 21 Jan. 1619-20.
3. ABIGAIL CHESTER was baptized at St. Mary Magdalene's, Bermondsey, on 5 Nov. 1623, and dying unmarried in her 13th year was buried there on 8 Sept. 1636.
4. JOHN CHESTER, the only son of Sampson by Frances Tough, was baptized at St. Mary Magdalene's, Bermondsey, on 23 May 1621, and is mentioned amongst the legatees in his uncle John's Will in 1628. He was a clergyman in holy orders, and is described as of Southwark, Clerk, in his son's indentures of apprenticeship.

SAMPSON CHESTER, son of Rev. John Chester of Southwark,

* Extracted from the books of the Merchant Taylors' Company, by G. E. Cockayne, Norroy King of Arms.

Clerk, was apprenticed for seven years in May 1669 to Richard Butler, Citizen and Merchant Taylor of London.*

SAMPSON CHESTER, the son (I presume) of Sampson Chester, Citizen and Merchant Taylor of London, was an apothecary living in the parish of St Mary Magdelene, Bermondsey,† when he married by licence dated 11 Feb. 1715-16, Mary Cuer, spinster of St. Olave's, Southwark. This last Sampson resided after his marriage in the parish of St. Anne's, Blackfriars, where his great grandfather lived a hundred years before, for the baptisms of his two children are recorded in the Parish Register.

1723-4, Feb. 6, SAMPSON, son of Sampson and Mary Chester, baptized.

1725-6, March 3, MARY, daughter of the same, baptized.

V. GEORGE CHESTER, the 4th son of Leonard by his wife Bridget Sharpe, was baptized at Blaby on 18 October 1594, and was living in 1628 when his brother John made his Will.

I. ANNE CHESTER the eldest daughter of Leonard by Bridget Sharpe, was the wife in 1619 of her cousin Robert Sharpe of Frisby in Leicestershire.

II. ALICE CHESTER was in 1619 the wife of Richard Sharpe, the brother of her sister's husband.

III.

AUGUSTINE CHESTER, the son and heir of Leonard by his first wife, succeeded on his father's death in 1615 to the estate at Blaby and Countesthorpe. He must however have been older than the jurors supposed, when they said that he was thirty years old and upwards in 1615, because he married at Blaby on 24 October 1599 Phebe daughter of John Michell of Blaby. But this is easily explained, for it is notorious that when the heir was manifestly beyond the age of wardship, it was of no legal consequence how much he was older than 21. Augustine was reckoned amongst the minor gentry of Leicestershire, and claimed kindred with the Knightly family of Chester, who were the owners of Royston and Cocken hatch in Hertfordshire. These pretensions were admitted (and perhaps suggested) by one of the heralds, who drew up the pedigree, which has been already printed at page 4. But if this pedigree was ever presented to the heralds, who visited Leicestershire in 1619, it was never officially sanctioned, for it does not appear in the original Visitation in the Royal College of Arms.

* Extracted from the books of the Merchant Taylors' Company, by G. E. Cockayne Norroy, King of Arms.

† It is possible that Sampson Chester, the apothecary, was the brother of James Chester, a parchment maker in Bermondsey Street, whose four children, Frances 1705, Anne 1706, James 1708, and Richard 1709, are mentioned in the Register of St. Mary Magdelene in Bermondsey.

Augustine's right therefore to bear the Arms of the Chesters of Royston was never allowed, although the heralds of that period were satisfied with scanty evidence of relationship in cases where their fees were paid, and it was proved beyond question in this case that the Chesters of Blaby came originally from Hertfordshire.

Nothing more is known about Augustine except that he and five members of his household were carried off by the plague in 1626.

In the beginning of the seventeenth century England was constantly subjected to visitations of plague, and the summer of 1626 was a fatal season for the little village of Blaby, for no less than eighty-three burials are recorded in the parish register of this year. Few families suffered more severely than the Chesters, for Augustine and his wife and four of their grown up children were all carried off within the space of three weeks. The mother was the first to die, and was buried on 24 May 1626. Her sons Leonard and William were buried on 5 June following, and were followed by their brother Clement and sister Anne, who were buried on 8 June. Augustine Chester, the bereft husband and father, lingered a week longer, and was buried on 14 June. He had probably been attacked by the disease before his wife died, for he made his Will whilst she was lying dead in the house. It was an informal document, and was in the shape of a request addressed to his son Charles, who took the estate under the grandfather's Will after his father's death, but as the law then stood such nuncupative Wills were valid so far as they affected personal estate.

AUGUSTINE CHESTER OF BLABY, GENT.

Nuncupative Will, dated 22 May 1626.

The request of Augustine Chester to his son Charles.

First, that Clement Chester's house be for the provision of his children.

Secondly, that he would let a half yard land be for six years for the provision of his father's three younger children, and should let them have the use of it for the term.

Thirdly, that the manure in the yard be laid on the yard land for raising of a stock for Rachell Chester & John Chester, only this next crop.

As to his outward goods, John Chester his third son to have one part, & Rachell his daughter two parts thereof.

Charles his eldest son to have the table in the house & one standing bed-stick. Rachell to have two parts of the linnen, & Anne one part. His debts. £4 10 to Fisher & Downes of Bowden. 16/- or 18/- to Wallis' wife.

Letters of administration with the Will annexed were granted in the Court of the Archdeacon of Leicester on 18 October 1627 to Rachell Preist *als* Chester, wife of Thomas Preist of Grandborow, Warwickshire, daughter of the testator.

Augustine Chester had issue by his wife Phebe Michell 6 sons and 2 daughters.

I. CHARLES CHESTER, son and heir.

II. CLEMENT CHESTER was baptized at Blaby, 16 June 1602, and is described as 17 years old in the visitation pedigree of 1619. He married at Blaby 26 Sept. 1624 Alice Brickwood, and had issue a son Charles. Clement Chester was only 24 years old, when he died of the plague a few days before his father, and was buried at Blaby on 8 June, 1626.

CHARLES CHESTER, son of Clement by Alice Brickwood, was baptized at Blaby 30 April 1625, and was therefore little more than 13 months old when his father died. His uncle Charles carried out the wish expressed in his father's Will, and confirmed to his nephew the cottage with three roods of land attached, which his grandfather had allowed his son Clement to occupy. But notwithstanding his possession of this small property, Charles received no education, and was all his life nothing more than a labourer, for he is so described both in the parish register of Blaby, and in his Will. He married twice, and by his first wife Dorothy had two sons. His second wife Alice survived him. He died at the age of 74, and was buried at Blaby, 27 Oct. 1699.

CHARLES CHESTER THE ELDER OF BLABY LABOURER.

Will dated 24 Feb., 1695-6.

To my wife Alice my cottage in Blaby wherein I dwell, with the garden orchard & Lammas close containing 3 roods for her life, & after her decease one half thereof to my eldest son Charles Chester & one half to my younger son William Chester. My wife to be my executrix and residuary legatee.

Will signed by his mark.

Will proved at Leicester 17 Sept. 1700.

Charles Chester had issue, by his wife Dorothy, two sons.

I. CHARLES CHESTER was baptized at Blaby 14 Feb. 1664-5, and lived and died an uneducated labourer like his father. He survived his step-mother Alice, but his burial is not recorded in Blaby register.

II. WILLIAM CHESTER was baptized at Blaby 9 June 1666, and married there by banns on 5 Nov. 1700 Mary Hubbard of Whetstone, Leicestershire, by whom he had no children. William was an uneducated labourer like his father and brother, and died at the age of 57. He was buried at Blaby 23 December, 1723.

WILLIAM CHESTER OF BLABY LABOURER.

Will dated 21 Jan. 1722-3.

Whereas my late father Charles Chester by Will dated 24 Feb. 1695-6 divided his cottage & premises between his two sons after the

death of his wife Alice, & whereas such division was duly made after Alice's death, I give & devise to my wife Mary Chester & her heirs all my part of the same cottage & lands which are now in my occupation. My said wife to be my executrix & residuary legatee.

Signed by William Chester with his mark.

Will proved at Leicester 20 December 1723.

Mary Chester the widow of William survived her husband little more than two years.

MARY CHESTER OF BLABY WIDOW.

Will dated 4 May 1724.

To my nephew Thomas Coleman of Gilmorton Leicestershire & his heirs the cottage where he now dwells with the garden orchard & Lammas close which were formerly divided between my late husband William Chester & his brother Charles pursuant to the Will of their father Charles Chester, & which were devised to me by the Will of my said late husband. But if the said Thomas Coleman dies before he is 21, then I give the same to my sister Alice Sowtham & her heirs. To my said sister all my wearing apparel.

My said nephew Thomas Coleman to be my executor & residuary legatee.

Will signed by Mary Chester with her mark.

Admon. granted with Will annexed by the Official of the Archdeacon of Leicester's Court to Alice wife of John Sowtham of Gilmorton the mother and guardian of Thomas Coleman a minor, the executor named in the Will.

III. RACHELL CHESTER the eldest daughter of Augustine, was baptized at Blaby 16 September 1604, and married within the year after her father's death Thomas Priest of Grandborow, Warwickshire. She is so described in the letters of administration which were granted to her on 18 October 1627 by the Registry of the Archdeacon of Leicester's Court.

IV. JOHN CHESTER was baptized at Blaby 3 Oct. 1608, and is described as 11 years old in the pedigree of 1619. He and his brother Charles were the only two of Augustine's sons who survived their father.

V. LEONARD CHESTER was baptized at Blaby 16 July 1610, and died a child in his sixth year. He was buried at Blaby 4 Feb. 1615-16.

VI. ANNE CHESTER was baptized at Blaby 4 Sept. 1614, and died in her twelfth year, for she was buried at Blaby on 8 June 1626, on the same day as her brother Clement.

VII. LEONARD CHESTER was baptized at Blaby 14 December 1617, although he is described as being 4 years old in the pedigree of 1619. He died in his ninth year and was buried at Blaby on 5 June 1626 on the same day as his brother William.

VIII. WILLIAM CHESTER was not born in 1619, and curiously enough his baptism is not recorded in Blaby register, but he was probably about 6 years old when he died of the disease, which proved fatal to so many of his family, and was buried at Blaby on 5 June 1626.

IV.

CHARLES CHESTER, son and heir of Augustine by Phebe Michell, was baptized 3 Feb. 1599-1600, and was therefore 26 old when he succeeded on his father's death to the family estate. His wife's name is not known, but it is probable from the age of his eldest son that he married in 1627 or 1628, during which two years the registers of Blaby parish have not been preserved. For the same reason there is no record of his burial, for he died in 1641, and there is another gap in the Blaby registers from 1640 to 1662. It appears, however, from the verdict found at the inquest, which was held after his death at Leicester on 20 Sept. 1641, that Charles Chester, yeoman, died at Blaby on 5 June 1641, seised of lands in Blaby and Countesthorpe, and that his heir was his son Charles, who was aged at the time of his father's death 12 years 3 months and 11 days.

Charles Chester had issue 3 children.

- I. CHARLES CHESTER his son and heir.
- II. JANE CHESTER was baptized at Blaby 9 Aug. 1632.
- III. ANNE CHESTER was baptized at Blaby 3 Aug. 1634.

V.

CHARLES CHESTER II. the son and heir of Charles, was born 22 Feb. 1628-9 and eventually inherited the family estate, but nothing is known about him except that he married very young a wife named Bridget, by whom he had a son Charles, who died in his lifetime leaving issue. Bridget died before her husband and was buried at Blaby on 17 July 1698. The widower soon married again, and his second wife by whom he had no issue survived him. He died at the age of 71, but his burial is not recorded in Blaby register.

CHARLES CHESTER OF BLABY YEOMAN.

Will dated 29 April 1700.

To my cousin Elizabeth Smart that lived with me £5 at 12 years (*sic*). To my cousin George Freer & his heirs my cottage or tenement in Blaby & the homestead occupied by Joseph Silvester. My wife to have the rest of my personal estate.

Will signed with Charles Chester's mark.

Witness. Jo Carver: Tho Allen: Saml Bakewell.

Will proved at Leicester by the widow 9 July 1700.

VI.

CHARLES CHESTER III., the son and heir apparent of Charles II. by Bridget, married a wife named Alice, who survived him, and had issue a son Charles. He died in his father's life-time, and was buried at Blaby 10 Feb. 1677-8.

CHARLES CHESTER OF BLABY YEOMAN.

Will dated 4 July 1677.

To be buried in Christian burial at the discretion of my executor.

To my wife Alice £20 with all household goods given me by her father Reynold.

To my son Charles £60, "that I have a mortgage for" at the age of 21. & in the meanwhile my wife to have the use of it. But if Charles dies before 21 then I give the £60 to my wife Alice.

The residue of my goods & chattels after payment of my debts to my father Charles Chester, who is my sole executor.

Will proved in 1678 in the Archdeacon of Leicester's Court.

VII.

CHARLES CHESTER IV., the son and heir of Charles III. son and heir apparent of Charles II., was baptized at Blaby 6 March 1670-1, and succeeded to the family estate on his grandfather's death. He married a wife Alice, and had issue a daughter Alice. Charles was the last male heir of the Chesters of Blaby. He died at the age of 51, and was buried at Blaby 9 Nov. 1721. But when the estate was sold I have not been able to discover.

VIII.

ALICE CHESTER, the only daughter and heir of Charles IV., was baptized at Blaby on 11 Sept. 1702, and married there on 24 Aug. 1726 Thomas Bassett of Blaby, yeoman. They had issue—

I. ELIZABETH BASSETT, baptized at Blaby 7 Nov. 1727.

II. MARY BASSETT, was baptized 8 June 1729.

CHAPTER II.

I.

JOHN CHESTER of Blaby, the brother of Augustine and the eldest son of Leonard Chester by his second wife Bridget Sharpe, was the ancestor of the Chesters of Wethersfield in New England. He was probably better off than his elder brother Augustine, for he inherited his father's lands in Hertfordshire as well as his mother's estate at Blaby. He married about 1609 Dorothy, daughter of Thomas Hooker and sister of the Rev. Thomas

Hooker a minister, who afterwards emigrated to New England, and was conspicuous amongst the Pilgrim Fathers as the pastor at Hartford in Connecticut. He had issue by his wife Dorothy, who survived her husband, a son and a daughter, but the daughter died before him.

John Chester sold for £60 to Trustees for the benefit of the inhabitants of Northaw^{*} Hertfordshire, by Deed dated 1 October 1624, a meadow of 2 acres at Chipping Barnet adjoining a messuage called the Flower de Luce, then in the occupation of John Hambllyn. This meadow still belongs to the parishioners of Northaw.

John Chester died in Sept. 1628, but there is no record of his burial, for the parish registers of Blaby for the year 1627-8 are lost.

JOHN CHESTER OF BLABY IN THE COUNTY OF LEICESTER
GENTLEMAN.

Will dated 28 July 1628.

To my wife Dorothy all my messuages and lands in Blaby, to enjoy the rents for her own use until my son Leonard attains the age of 24 when he is to have them in fee simple subject to my wife's dower. But if Leonard dies without issue before attaining 24, then my wife is to have the lands for her life. In the meanwhile my wife is to pay my son Leonard £6 13s. 4d. every year at Michaelmas until he attains 24. My wife is also to pay £6 13s. 4d. every year at Michaelmas to John Chester son of Sampson Chester deceased until my son Leonard attains 24: & then my said son Leonard is to pay 50^{/-} every year at Michaelmas to George Chester during his life. But if Leonard dies without issue before 21, then the person to whom my land shall come is to pay to the said John Chester £10 a year during his life.

To my servant Lyonell Matfield £5. To my servant Elizabeth Humberstone 40 - To John Miller 40 - To John Adeock 50 - To the poor of St. Margaret's Leicester 10 - To the poor of Blaby 20 -

My wife to be my executrix & residuary legatee. My brethren John Horte & Robert Miller to be overseers of my Will.

Witnesses. Charles Chester, Leonard Chester, Anne Chester & others.

Will proved by the widow 15 October 1628 in the Archdeacon of Leicester's Court.

John Chester's widow Dorothy did not remain long in England after her husband's death, for she emigrated to New England in 1633 with her brother Thomas Hooker and her son Leonard, who was then lately married. She was still living in 1639 at Hartford in Connecticut, where her brother was pastor.

* Reports of Charity Commission, vol. xxvii. p. 2-6.

John Chester had issue by Dorothy Hooker, two children, a son and a daughter.

I. LEONARD CHESTER son and heir.

II. ELIZABETH CHESTER was baptized at Blaby 6 Jan. 1624-5, and (as I gather from the silence of her father's Will) died an infant before her father.

II.

LEONARD CHESTER, the only son of John of Blaby by Dorothy Hooker, was baptized at Blaby on 15 July 1610, and was therefore 18 years old when his father died. He married at the age of 21, and the young couple emigrated to New England in 1633 with his uncle Thomas Hooker, who was afterwards pastor at Hartford, in Connecticut. He purchased lands at Watertown in this State, where "Chester's Meadow" still perpetuates his name. He was one of the Colony, who left Watertown in 1635 to settle in the town of Wethersfield, where his descendants continued to be resident proprietors for several generations. He had married before leaving England Mary Wade, who seems to have had a comfortable fortune. He made a Will in 1637, from which it appears that he had then already acquired a considerable estate at Wethersfield, although he had not disposed of all his property in England. This Will was never proved, for it was superseded by a later Will dated in 1648, but the earlier Will is printed in the *Historical and Genealogical Register of New England*,* and is now reproduced to show his position at this period.

LEONARD CHESTER OF WETHERSFIELD CONNECTICUT GENT.

Will dated Nov. 22 1637. To my son John my houses & lands &c. in Wethersfield: one half at my death & the other half at the death of my wife Mary. If my said son John dies under 21, without issue, then I give the same lands to my daughter Mary, with remainder to the heirs of my body, remainder to the children of my uncle Mr. Thomas Hooker now pastor at Hartford in Connecticut.

To my son John £100. To my daughter Mary £200. To my mother Dorothy Chester £30. To my wife Mary one half of my said houses & lands for her life, & I appoint her my sole executrix. Mr. John Plum & Mr. Henry Smith both of Wethersfield to be overseers of my Will.

CODICIL. £300, part of my wife Mary's portion, which had been sent over since we arrived in New England to be disposed of by my wife.

The Colonial Records of Connecticut show that Leonard Chester took a leading position amongst the settlers of Wethers-

* Vol. xvi. pp. 233-4.

field, for he was a member of the grand jury, and his name occurs thirteen times in the first volume of the State Records.

Leonard Chester died on 11 December 1648, aged 38, and was buried at Wethersfield, where a massive horizontal slab of red sandstone in the Churchyard preserves his memory with this inscription, which is surmounted by a rude armorial shield.

“ Here lyes the body of Leon
and Chester Armiger late
of the town of Blaby and
severall other lordships
in Leistersheire deceased
in Wethersfield Anno
Domini 1648 Etatis 39 : ”

The Arms are rudely delineated and the Griffin is repeated below the Chief, but the Shield was evidently intended to denote the well known Arms of Chester of Royston, “ Ermine on a Chief Sable, a Griffin passant, Argent.”

WILL OF LEONARD CHESTER OF WETHERSFIELD CONN. GENT.

Whereas I have some years since drawn up the frame of my thoughts and desires into a writing, and committed it to the keeping of my uncle Thomas Hooker, now deceased; which writing, for the present, I cannot well come at; and further, because in the writing, I have not, so far as I remember, made any provision for my younger children, which have been born since: I do therefore truly declare, that whatever provision is therein made for my younger children, that were then born, the same provision I do appoint to be made for my younger children born since, so that they may all have their portions alike, equal one to another, except my eldest son to whom I have bequeathed and do still bequeath a double portion. And whereas in that my Will, I have entreated Mr. J. Webster and my cousin Neuton to be my Executors, I do hereby make known that my desire is to ease them of the trouble, and do constitute and appoint my loving wife to be my sole and alone Executrix. And lastly, because I have taken no order in that writing for the dispose of what estate I have remaining still in Old England, I do therefore hereby bequeath all that estate, whether in annuity, goods, or otherwise, which either is or shall be of right appertaining unto me or my heirs; and in particular, one annuity of thirty quarters of barley issuing out of the estate of Nicholas Sharpe, deceased, and by his Will bequeathed unto me and my heirs, for the selling whereof, I have sent over a letter of attorney to my father Wade: all this, with whatever else will be coming to me out of Old England, I do give to my wife during her life, with all the profits that shall accrue therefrom; and after her decease, I do give and bequeath it to my children, viz.: to my eldest Son, a double portion, and to the rest, to every one an equal portion. That this is my

full mind and final resolution and Will, I do hereby, in testimony hereof, set my hand and seal, this 2nd day of August. 1648.

Leonard Chester.

C.
L.M.

In the presence of us,
He. Smith,
William Smith,
Thomas Hanchett.

My desire is to add something further to my within mentioned Will, viz. :—

1. In case my annuity in Old England shall not be sold, and so shall fall by law, upon my eldest son, that then whatever I have given to my eldest son by my Will, viz. : that double portion of goods, shall be translated from him to my other children, to mend their portions.

2. In case any of my children shall prove undutiful and stubborn to their mother, that it shall be in the power of their mother to take away the one half of that portion I have bequeathed to that child, and to give it to such of the rest as shall be more dutiful to her.

These things, though in a rude and indigested manner, I desire for the present thus to set down,—intending, if God spare my life, to reduce all into one entire writing. This 2nd of Aug. 1648.

Leonard Chester's widow Mary, proved her husband's Will, and married secondly the Honble. Richard Russell of Charlestown, whom she also survived. She died at Charlestown 30 Nov. 1688.

In the name of God, Amen. I MARY RUSSELL, of Charlestown, in his Majesty's territory and dominion in New England, (formerly Mary Chester, wife of Leonard Chester, late of Wethersfield, in the Colony of Connecticut, deceased,) being often weakly in body, but of reasonable good understanding and memory ; and for as much as I know not how soon it may please God to take me out of this world, by death, I account it my duty to resign up myself, soul and body, to the good will and pleasure of the Lord of life and death, hoping and trusting, that after this temporal life is ended, to receive everlasting happiness through the only merits of Jesus Christ my Lord and only Saviour. And as concerning what temporal estate it hath pleased God in his goodness to give unto me, I do, by this last Will and testament, give and bequeath the same in manner as followeth.

“Imprimis. After my just debts shall be paid, and my decent funeral charges defrayed, I give and bequeath unto my eldest son. Capt. John Chester, of Wethersfield, in the aforesaid territory and dominion in New England, the sum of thirty pounds.

“Item. I give and devise to my daughter, Mrs. Dorcas Whiting, of Bellerica, in the aforesaid territory, the sum of thirty pounds, and also, my wearing apparel, and that household stuff which I shall have remain-

ing unwilling to any other : and to her husband, the Rev. Mr. Samuel Whiting, my son-in-law, ten pounds.

"Item. I give and bequeath to my grand-daughter Elizabeth Whiting, my bed and bedstead, bolsters, blanket and rugg. More: I give to said Elizabeth the trunk which is in the chamber, and what is in it. More: I give to her my brass and irons, and silver tankards.

"Item. I give and bequeath to my second son, Stephen Chester, of the aforesaid Wethersfield, merchant, the sum of forty pounds, one chest of drawers, and a painted carpet. "I give and bequeath unto my daughter Prudence Russell's orphans, viz., my grandson, Thomas Russell, my brick house, with four feet front on the wharf, which I bought of my son Mr. Daniel Russell: and to my two grand-daughters, Mary Russell and Prudence Russell, fifteen pounds to each one of them. More, I give to my grand-daughter, Mary Russell, my silver wine cup, marked M. D., and one silver spoon. More I give to my grand-daughter, Prudence Russell aforesaid, my silver plate with the Chester arms on it. Also, I give unto the said orphans, all that debt of thirty and two pounds due to me on the book of accounts. Further, it is my will, that the house and land where Thomas Rind lives, with the yard room, situated and lying in the aforesaid Charlestown, be equally given between the said Mary and Prudence Russell. Further, it is my mind and will that the small house and yard room where John Goppy at present lives, and the lean-to rising up against Dr. Chickering's, with the privilege of water at the well, be given unto my daughter, Mrs. Dorcas Whiting aforesaid.

"Item. I give unto my son-in-law, James Russell, Esq., the sum of five pounds.

"Item. I give unto my son-in-law, Capt. Richard Sprague, the sum of five pounds.

"Item. I give and bequeath unto my old servant, Jno. Coultman, of Wethersfield, if then living, twenty shillings.

"And further it is my will, that if my estate should fall short of the aforesaid legacies, then, that there be a proportionable abatement on every legatee. My beloved sons, Mr. Samuel Whiting, and Mr. Stephen Chester abovesaid, to be executors of this my last will."

Will dated 20 Nov. 1688.

Witnessed by Edward Willson; John Newell senr.

Will proved in Probate Court of Middlesex County Mass:

Leonard Chester had issue by his wife Mary seven children viz:

I. JOHN CHESTER son and heir.

II. DORCAS CHESTER (called Mary in her father's Will of 1637), was born 5 Nov. 1637 and married Rev. Samuel Whiting of Billerica.

III. STEPHEN CHESTER Merchant of Charlestown, was born on 3 March 1639, and died unmarried 23 April 1705.

IV. MARY CHESTER was born 15 Jan. 1641, and died unmarried in Charlestown 15 Sept. 1669.

V. PRUDENCE CHESTER was born 16 Feb. 1643, and married

30 December 1669 Captain Thomas Russell of Charlestown, who died 20 Oct. 1676 leaving three children. His widow died 21 Oct. 1678, in her mother's lifetime.

VI. EUNICE CHESTER was born 15 June 1645, and married 25 Feb. 1673 Captain Richard Sprague of Charlestown. She died 27 May 1676, in her mother's lifetime.

VII. MERCY CHESTER was born 14 Feb. 1647, and died unmarried at Charlestown in 1669.

III.

JOHN CHESTER of Wethersfield the son and heir of Leonard by Mary Wade, was born in Watertown Conn: 3 Aug. 1635, and married in 1643-4 Sarah Welles, a daughter of the Honble. Thomas Welles of Wethersfield, who was successively Treasurer, Secretary, and Governor of the State of Connecticut. Captain John Chester was one of the leading men in his native State, and died 23 Feb. 1697-8 at the age of 62. Captain John Chester had issue by his wife Sarah, (who survived him and died on 12 Dec. 1698,) eight children, of whom and their descendants the following particulars are reprinted from the *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*.

IV.

Children of [Capt.] JOHN¹ CHESTER.

1. MARY,² b. Dec. 25, 1654; m. Feb. 14, 1676-7, John Wolcott, of E. Windsor; d. July 10, 1689, æt. 35. (3 children.)

2. JOHN² (Major, Judge, Speaker), b. June 10, 1656; m. Nov. 25, 1686, Hannah Talcott, b. in 1666, dau. of Cap. Samuel Talcott, of Glastenbury. He d. Dec. 14, 1711, æt. 55; his widow Hannah d. July 23, 1741, æt. 78. (10 children.)

3. SARAH,² b. Nov. 11, 1657; m. Dec. 5, 1689, Simon Wolcott, of Windsor. (6 children.)

4. STEPHEN,² b. May 26, 1659; m. Dec. 17, 1691, Jemima Treat, of Wethersfield, b. 1668. He d. Feb. 9, 1697-8. (5 children.)

5. THOMAS,² b. March 23, 1661-2; m. Dec. 10, 1684, Mary Treat, dau. of Richard Treat, of Glastenbury. He d. Dec. 5, 1712, æt. 50, and his widow d. in 1748, æt. 81. (4 children.)

6. SAMUEL,² b. May 23, 1664; d. 1680, æt. 25, unm.

7. PRUDENCE,² b. Dec. 10, 1666; d. May 8, 1727, æt. 60; m. James Treat. (7 children.)

8. EUNICE,² b. May 17, 1668; m. Rev. Timothy Stevens, of Glastenbury; d. June 16, 1698, æt. 30. (4 children.)

V.

Children of [Major] JOHN² CHESTER.

1. PENELOPE,³ b. Nov. 1, 1687; d. April 1688, æt. 5 months.
2. MEHITABLE,³ b. Jan. 29, 1688-9; m. Nath. Burnham. (5 children.)
3. MARY,³ b. March 8, 1691 (m. Jonathan Burnham). (6 children.)
4. PENELOPE,³ b. Nov. 18, 1693 (m. Rev. Ebenezer Williams); d. June 29, 1764, æt. 71. (6 children.)
5. HANNAH,³ b. May 5, 1696 (m. Capt. Gideon Welles, and Hale of Glastenbury); d. May 19, 1749, æt. 53. (9 children.)
6. PRUDENCE,³ b. March 4, 1699; m. Dec. 13, 1731, Col. John Stoddard, of Northampton. b. Feb. 17, 1682, grad. H. C. 1701—son of Rev. Solomon Stoddard. He d. in Boston June 19, 1748, and his widow d. Sept. 11, 1780, æt. 81. (5 children.)
7. EUNICE,³ b. May 11, 1701; m. Col. John Pitkin, of East Hartford.
8. JOHN,³ (Colonel, Judge,) b. June 30, 1703, grad. H. C. 1722; m. Nov. 19, 1747, Sarah Noyes, dau. of Rev. James Noyes, of New Haven, b. March 29, 1722. He d. Sept. 11, 1771, æt. 68. His widow d. June 25, 1797, æt. 75. He was often a member of the General Assembly and Assistant. He was also a Judge of the County Court, and one of the most important men of the Colony, useful in the Church, "a father to the fatherless and a god to the widow." He d. suddenly in the hay-field, Sept. 11, 1771. In 1748, he is said to have been the only male in his line of the name of Chester.

The bell in the church tower at Wethersfield imported from England, and his gift, bears in raised letters this inscription—"JOHN CHESTER, 1761."

9. SARAH,³ b. July 4, 1707; m. Col. Israel Williams, of Hatfield, b. Nov. 30, 1709, grad. H. C. 1729, d. 1789. She d. in Hatfield Sept. 18, 1770, æt. 63. (7 children.)
10. THOMAS,³ b. Aug. 31, 1711; d. May 29, 1712.

VI.

Children of [Col.] JOHN³ CHESTER.

I. JOHN⁴ (Colonel, Speaker), b. Jan. 29, 1749; grad. Y. C. 1766, and A.M. Harv. 1775; m. Nov. 25, 1773, Elizabeth Huntington, dau. of Hon. Jabez H., of Norwich, b. Nov. 9, 1757. He d. Nov. 4, 1809, and his widow d. July 1, 1839. He distinguished himself by his intrepidity as Captain of a company

at Bunker Hill, and was soon made Colonel. By his resignation in 1777, the country lost the services of a gallant and efficient officer.

In Frothingham's Siege of Boston, frequent mention is made of him, and always in the highest terms. In the same work a letter from Col. Chester dated July 22, 1775, and giving a full account of the battle, occupies three pages (pp. 389-391). This letter is repeatedly quoted in subsequent pamphlets respecting the command at Bunker Hill. Lieut. Webb of Chester's company, writes July 11, 1775: "For my part I confess when I was descending into the valley, from off Bunker Hill, side by side of Captain Chester, at the head of our company, I had no more thought of ever rising the hill again than I had of ascending to heaven, as Elijah did, soul and body together. But after we got engaged, to see the dead and wounded around me I had no other feeling but that of revenge. Four men were shot down within five feet of me, but, thank heaven, I escaped with only the graze of a musket ball on my hat."

Col. Chester was Speaker of the House several years. Councilor, Judge of Probate, and Judge of the County Court. 12 children:—

(1) *Elizabeth*,^s b. Nov. 10, 1774; m. June 8, 1807, Eleazer F. Backus, of Albany, b. Jan. 13, 1770. 4 children: John C. Backus,^s D.D., of Baltimore, Md.; J. Trumbull Backus,^s D.D., of Schenectady, N. Y.; Elizabeth,^s d. unm.; Mary,^s m. James Bayard, Esq., of Philadelphia.

(2) *Mary*,^s b. April 20, 1779; m. June 3, 1806, Ebenezer Welles, of Brattleboro', Vt. 3 children: John,^s Charles,^s Henry.^s

(3) *Hannah*,^s b. Oct. 27, 1781; m. Sept. 26, 1808, Charles Chauncey, LL.D., of Philadelphia, b. in New Haven, 1777, grad. Y. C. 1792, d. Sept. 30, 1849. She d. Feb. 6, 1821. 6 children: Charles,^s grad. Y. C. 1828, d. 1831; Elizabeth Chester;^s Susan Vaux,^s d. 1836; Hannah:^s two sons, d. in infancy.

(4) *Sarah*,^s b. June 17, 1783; unm.

(5) *John*^s (Rev. D.D.), b. Aug. 17, 1785, grad. Y. C. 1804, D.D. U. C. 1821, pastor 2d Pres. Church in Albany; m. Rebecca, dau. of Robert Ralston, of Philadelphia, where he d. Jan. 12, 1829. 6 chil.: Sarah Ralston,^s m. Rev. Samuel B. Jones; Elizabeth Huntington;^s Hannah Chauncey,^s m. Jonathan H. Hasbrouck; Marion Dorsey,^s d. unm.; Mary Wells,^s m. Martin B. Inches; Rebecca Ralston,^s m. Abram Suydam Mesier.

(6) *Charlotte*,^s b. March 20, 1787; d. July 19, 1844, unm.

(7) *Henry*,^s b. Oct. 3, 1790, d. in infancy.

(8) *Julia*,^s b. March 15, 1792; m. April 2, 1816, Matthew C. Ralston, of Philadelphia. 3 chil.: Sarah,^s Robert,^s Hannah Chester.^s

(9) *Henry*,⁴ b. Dec. 23, 1793; grad. U. C. 1811; lawyer of Philadelphia; d. 1848, unm.

(10) *William* (D.D.), b. Nov. 20, 1796; grad. U. C. 1815. D.D. Wash. C. Penn.; pastor Pres. Church, Hudson, N. Y.; Sec'y Pres. Board of Education, Phila.; m. 1826, Frances M. White, of Hudson.

(11) *George*,⁵ b. June 14, 1798; d. in infancy.

(12) *Charles*,⁵ b. —; d. —.

II. *LEONARD*,⁴ b. Sept. —, 1750; grad. Y. C. 1769; m. Sept. 12, 1776, Sarah Williams, of Pittsfield, b. Oct. 31, 1758, dau. of Col. Wm. Williams, Jr., of Deerfield. He d. in New York of yellow fever in 1805, and the place of his burial is unknown. 10 children:—

(1) *Leonard Williams*,⁵ b. Dec. 20, 1777; m. Sabra Roath, of Norwich; went to sea in H. B. M. brig Quebec, and was never heard of. He left one child.

(2) *Hannah D.*,⁵ b. Aug. 8, 1779; m. Mr. Leffingwell.

(3) *Henrietta* (twin), b. March 8, 1781; m. Rev. Mr. Briggs, of Boxford, Mass. 1 child.

(4) *Sophia*⁵ (twin), b. March 8, 1781; d. Nov. 7, 1822.

(5) *John Noyes*,⁵ b. March 20, 1783; went to sea, bound to Java, and was never heard of.

(6) *Sally Williams*,⁵ b. Nov. 2, 1784.

(7) *William Williams*,⁵ b. July 13, 1786; m. Nov. 13, 1816, Hannah Sutherland, of Blenheim, N. Y., b. May 31, 1796. She d. Jan. 8, 1863, s. p. He founded the well known firm of W. W. Chester & Co., New York.

(8) *Thomas Leonard*,⁵ b. Aug. 20, 1788; m. Oct. 15, 1815, Eliza Sidell, b. Sept. 10, 1796. 10 children:—William Henry,⁶ b. Sept. 17, 1816; m. June 8, 1838, Eliza K. Priest, who d. March 14, 1846. (2 children). He m. Oct. 9, 1850, Mary Cooper. (5 children.) He was in Union Army, wounded at Gettysburg, and d. July 10, 1862. Caroline Sarah,⁶ b. June 5, 1818; d. Dec. 2, 1860. John Noyes,⁶ b. Sept. 25, 1820; m. Feb. 4, 1862, Fannie A. Harris. (2 children.) Eliza,⁶ b. Oct. 8, 1822; d. Aug. 1827. Charles Thomas,⁶ b. Jan. 6, 1826; grad. Y. C. 1845; m. June 17, 1856, Lucretia Roberts. (4 children.) Edward,⁶ b. July 12, 1828; m. Aug. 1848, Sophia Hoffman. Stephen,⁶ b. Sept. 19, 1830; m. Feb. 25, 1868, Caroline Georgine Harris. Henrietta,⁶ b. Sept. 18, 1832; d. April 24, 1834. Julia,⁶ b. Dec. 5, 1835; m. Aug. 31, 1866, Rev. O. W. Whitaker. Emeline,⁶ b. April 20, 1840; d. Dec. 24, 1841.

(9) *James De Colt*,⁵ b. Aug. 13, 1792; drowned while bathing in Connecticut River.

(10) *Abigail Webb*,⁵ b. June, 1796; d. Feb. 1801.

III. SARAH,⁴ b. Aug. 12, 1752; m. Thomas Coit, of Canterbury. (5 children.) :—

- (1) *Joseph*.⁵
- (2) *Frances*.⁵ m. Rev. Parker Adams, of Johnstown, N. Y.
- (3) *Sally*.⁵ m. John Knickerbocker, of Waterford.
- (4) *Thomas C.*⁵ m. Mary Ann Morgan, of Hartford.
- (5) *Stephen*.⁵ m. Betsey Throop, of Norwich.

IV. ABIGAIL,⁴ b. May 27, 1754; m. Nov., 1774, Joseph Webb. 10 children :—

- (1) *Sally*.⁵ (2) *Harriet Blackley*.⁵ (3) *Joseph Hayes*.⁵ (4) *Eliza Bancker*.⁵ (5) *Frances Chester*.⁵ (6) *John Haynes*.⁵ (7) *Thomas Chester*.⁵ (8) *Amelia*.⁵ (9) *Thomas Chester*.⁵ (10) *Henry L.*⁵ (11) *Charles Barrel*.⁵ (Dates not ascertained.)

V.—X. Six infants d. between 1756 and 1760. (Three born at one birth, lived respectively 1 hour, 11 days, and 17 weeks.)

XI. STEPHEN,⁴ b. Oct. 27, 1761; grad. Y. C. 1780; Sheriff of Hartford County; d. Dec. 6, 1835; m. Nov. 5, 1788, Elizabeth, dau. of Stephen Mix Mitchell, Chief Justice of Connecticut, b. Sept. 11, 1770, d. Dec. 22, 1852. 10 children :—

- (1) *Elizabeth*.⁵ b. Sept. 15, 1789; d. Oct. 1, 1851, unkm.
- (2) *Maria*.⁵ b. May 17, 1791; d. June 22, 1866; m. Hon. Lewis Strong, of Northampton. (10 children, 8 grandchildren.)
- (3) *Stephen Mitchell*.⁵ b. Oct. 18, 1793; grad. Y. C. 1813; merchant; d. April 14, 1862, unkm.
- (4) *Donald*.⁵ b. July 25, 1795; grad. Y. C. 1814; merchant; d. Sept. 29, 1835, unkm.
- (5) *Walter*.⁵ b. Oct. 8, 1798; d. in infancy.
- (6) *Hannah Grant*.⁵ b. May 27, 1800.
- (7) *Walter*.⁵ b. Nov. 20, 1804; m. Henrietta Lyman, of Cazenovia, N. Y., April 22, 1828. (6 children, 11 grandchildren.)
- (8) *Catherine*.⁵ b. Nov. 10, 1806; m. May 7, 1829, Lemuel W. Belden, M.D., of Springfield. (1 child.)
- (9) *Julia Buck*.⁵ b. August 23, 1809; d. April 8, 1835, unkm.
- (10) *John*.⁵ b. Jan. 23, 1813; m. Catharine M. Morell, of Detroit, Mich., June 14, 1837; d. Nov. 18, 1852. (3 children.)

XII. THOMAS,⁴ b. Jan. 7, 1764; grad. Y. C. 1780; d. 1831; m. Esther M. Bull, b. Sept. 29, 1777, d. June 22, 1844. 5 children :—

- (1) *Aurelia Louisa*.⁵ b. May 19, 1796.
- (2) *Alfred*.⁵ (Rev.), b. March 17, 1798; grad. Y. C. 1818; m. Aug. 24, 1826, Mary Ann Frances Chetwood, of Elizabethtown, N. J. (2 children, 5 gr. children.)

(3) *Caroline*,^s b. Jan. 26, 1801; m. June 2, 1825, John Knickerbocker, of Waterford, N. Y. (5 children, 8 gr. children.)

(4) *Mary Jane*,^s b. Nov. 10, 1804; m. Prof. Sylvester Hovey, of Amherst College; d. Jan. 11, 1840. (1 child.)

(5) *Elizabeth Huntington*,^s b. Oct. 31, 1807; m. James M. Bunce, of Hartford, Ct.; d. March 6, 1861. (6 children.)

APPENDIX.

EXTRACTS FROM PARISH REGISTERS.

BLABY, LEIC. (Commence 1560.)

1594. Geo: Chester bapt. 18 Oct.
 1599. Augustine s. of Leonarde Chester of Blaby & Phebe Michell of Blaby, mar. 24 Oct.
 1599. Chas. s. of Augustine Chester, bapt. 3 Febr.
 1602. Clement s. of Augustine Chester, bapt. 6 June.
 1604. Rachell Chester bapt. 16 Sept.
 1606. Leonard Chester & Jane Wolle mar. 12 June.
 1608. John s. of Augustine Chester bapt. Oct. 3.
 1608. Jane wife of Leonard Chester bapt. Oct. 29.
 1610. Leonard s. of John Chester bapt. July 15.
 1611. Leonard s. of Augustine Chester bapt. 11 Jan.
 1614. Anne d. of Augustine Chester bapt. 4 Sept.
 1615. Leonard Chester gent. bur. 16 August.
 1615. Leonard son of Augustine Chester bur. 4 Febr.
 1617. Leonard s. of Augustine Chester bapt. 14 Dec.
 1624. Elizabeth d. of John Chester bapt. 6 Jan.
 1624. Clement Chester & Alice Brickwood, mar. 26 Sept.
 1625. Charles s. of Clement Chester bapt. 30 April.
 1626. Phæbe Chester, wife of Augustine Chester, bur. 24 May.
 1626. Leonard, s. of Augustine Chester, bur. 5 June.
 „ William, s. of „ „ bur. 5 June.
 „ Clement Chester, bur. 8 June.
 „ Ann d. of Augustine Chester, bur. 8 June.
 „ Augustine Chester, bur. 14 June.
 [N.B.—“83 funerals this year—1626.”]
 1632. Aug. 9. Jane, d. of Charles Chester bapt.
 1634. Anne, d. of Charles Chester, husbandman, bapt. 3 Aug.
 1664. Charles, s. of Charles Chester & Dorothy, bapt. Febr. 14.
 1666. William, s. of Charles Chester & Dorothy, bapt. June 9.
 1670. Charles, s. of Charles Chester & Alice, bapt. March 6.
 1677. Charles Chester, husband of Alice, and son of Charles Chester and Bridget his wife—Buried Febr. 10.

1693. Bridget, wife of Charles Chester, bur. July 17.
 1699. Charles Chester, labourer, bur. Oct. 27.
 1700. Dorothy, widow of Charles Chester, bur. May 11.
 1700. William Chester of Blaby & Mary Hubbard of Whetstone,
 mar. by Banns, Nov. 5.
 1702. Alice, dau. of Charles Chester & Alice, bapt. Sept. 11.
 1706. Valentine Lowe of Ilston & Ann Chester of this parish—
 married Jan. 13.
 1721. Charles Chester, buried Nov. 9.
 1723. Sarah Chester, widow, buried June 4.
 „ William Chester, bur. Dec. 23.
 1726. Tho. Bassett & Alice Chester, both of Blaby, mar. Aug. 28.
 1727. Elizabeth, d. of Tho. Bassett & Alice, bapt. Nov. 7.
 1728. Widow Chester, buried March 13.
 1729. Mary, d. of Tho. Bassett & Alice, bapt. June 8.

ST. ANNE'S BLACKFRIARS, LONDON.

1617. Nov. 26. Sampson Chester & Frances Tough married.
 1618. Oct. 28. Margaret dau. of Sampson & Francis Chester,
 bapt.
 1619-20. Jan. 21. Joanna dau. of same bapt.
 1723-4. Feb. 6. Sampson son of Sampson & Mary Chester bapt.
 1725-6. Mch. 3. Mary dau. of Sampson & Mary Chester bapt.

ST. MARY MAGDALEN, BERMONDSEY.

1621. May 23. John son of Sampson Chester, a sojourner—
 Christened.
 1623. Nov. 5. Abigail dau. of same Christened.
 1627-8. Feb. 25. Thomas Smith & Francis Chester, married.
 1636. Sept. 8. Abigail Chester als Smith—girl—Buried—P.
 1676. July 9. Mary dau. of William Chester—Buried.
 1705. Oct. 21. Frances dau. of James Chester, of Bermondsey
 Street, Parchment Maker, & Anne his wife—
 Baptised—born 11th.
 1706. Dec. 29. Anne dau. of same, baptised—born 23rd; bur.
 29 Apr. 1707.
 1707-8. Feb. 1. James, son of same,—Baptised—born 25 Jan.
 1709. Dec. 27. Richard son of same—Baptised—born 19th.

MARRIAGE ALLEGATIONS, from the Faculty Office.

- 1715-6. Feb. 11. Sampson Chester of St. Mary Magdalen, Ber-
 mondsey, Apothecary, Bach^r aged above 22 & Mary Cuer of St.
 Olave's Southwark, Surrey, Sp^r above 21. To marry at St. Mary
 Magdalen aforesaid.

(From the late Colonel J. L. Chester's MS. Collections.)

EXTRACTS FROM THE REGISTERS OF THE MERCHANT TAYLORS^{John}
COMPANY OF LONDON. (1.)

Apprentices.

1606. Oct. 13. Sampson Chester son of Leonard Chester of Blaby co. Leicester Gent. apprenticed to John Gilbert. of Holborn for 7 years.

Mem. Sampson was made free by his said master on 3rd July 1615.

1669 May. Sampson Chester son of John Chester of Southwark Clerk apprenticed to Richard Butler one of the Livery for 7 years.

(Communicated by G. E. Cokayne, Norroy.)

FREER OF BLABY. (See p. 12.)

George Freer, called "my cousin" in the Will of Charles Chester 1700, was son of William Freer of Blaby, by Grace Savile his wife, dau. of George Savile of Blaby, lord of the manor of Blaby, and of Grace his wife. George Freer was bap. 23 March 1678, and was dead in 1729, when his children Ann, Grace, and William were living, and are named in their grandfather's Will. The Freers were seated at Blaby as early as 1580. The Saviles (see p. 6) were a younger branch of the Saviles of Howley co. York, and came to Blaby *temp.* Hen. VI., when Thomas Savile acquired the manor by his marriage with Catherine, dau. & coheir of John de Blaby. Pedigrees of Savile are given in the *Vis. Leic.* 1619, and in *Nichols's Leic.* iv. 51.

[The following additional memoranda respecting the CHESTERS OF LEICESTERSHIRE may perhaps be of interest to some, though they do not relate to the Blaby family. ED.]

EXTRACTS FROM PARISH REGISTERS.

GREAT GLENN.

1768. August 7. James Chester, son of S^r George Robinson & Lady Dorothea his wife, was baptized.

IBSTOCK.

1730. Oct. 8. William Clare & Elizabeth Chester, mar.

ILSTON ON THE HILL.

1659. Jan. 15. Anne, wife of Thomas Chester, bur.

1671. Nov. 26. Elizabeth, dau of Thomas Chester & Mary, bap.

1677. June 24. Thomas, s. " " " bap.

1678. Jan. 19. Anne, dau. " " " bur.

1679. Jan. 4. Anne, dau. " " " bap.

1693.	Feb. 6.	Mary, wife of Thomas Chester, bur.			
1707.	Nov. 18.	William, s. of Thomas Chester & Mary, bap.			
1708.	Jan. 2.	Mary, dau.	"	"	bap.
1712.	May 18.	Ann, dau.	"	"	bap.
1713.	Feb. 27.	Elizabeth, dau.	"	"	bap.
1714.	July 14.	Ann, dau.	"	"	bur.
1714.	Jan. 20.	Ann, dau.	"	"	bap.
1717.	Nov. 10.	Sarah, dau.	"	"	bap.
1717.	Feb. 28.	Sarah, dau. of Thomas Chester, bur.			
1722.	Dec. 13.	Thomas Chester, bur.			
1731.	March 2.	Mary, wife of Thomas Chester, bur.			
1748.	Aug. 9.	Thomas Chester junr. & Sarah Jackson, of Ilston, mar.			
1751.	Apr. 8.	John, s. of Thomas Chester & Sarah, bap.			
1755.	March 29.	Thomas Chester, bur.			
1756.	April 21.	Anne, dau. of Thomas Chester & Sarah, bap.			
1790.	March 3.	Thomas Chester, æt. 82, bur.			
1793.	Sep. 9.	Sarah Chester, bur.			

1709.	Nov. 26.	Valentine, s. of Valentine Lowe & Anne, bap.			
1711.	Sep. 23.	Mary, dau.	"	"	bap.
1713.	Mar. 14.	Elizabeth, dau.	"	"	bap.

WILLS &c. OF CHESTER, PROVED AT LEICESTER.

1615.	Leonard Chester, Blaby.	No. 65.
1625.	John Chester, Harbye.	No. 112.
1626.	Christopher Chester, Croxton Keriall.	No. 241.
1627.	Augustine Chester, Blaby.	(Reg. Bk. 1626-7, fo. 143.)
1628.	John Chester, Blaby.	(Reg. Bk. 1628-30, fo. 19.)
1629.	Anthonye Chester, Ilston.	
1640.	John Chester, Braunston.	No. 87.
1641.	William Chester, Harbye.	No. 71.
1678.	Charles Chester, Blaby.	No. 52.
1700.	Charles Chester, Blaby.	Adm., Vic. Gen. et off. 26.
1700.	Charles Chester, Blaby.	Vic. Gen. 42.
1700.	Charles Chester, the elder, Blaby.	No. 71.
1703.	William Chester, Knipton.	No. 39.
1720.	Thomas Chester, Gracedieu.	
1723.	William Chester, Blaby.	
1725.	Thomas Chester, Sheepshed.	
1726.	Mary Chester, widow, Blaby.	
1741.	William Chester, Waltham on the Wolds.	
1747.	William Chester, Frisby.	

POSTSCRIPT.

I am indebted to the courtesy of Mr. John Ward Dean, the Secretary of the New England Historic Genealogical Society at Boston, U.S.A., for copies of the Wills of Leonard Chester of Wethersfield, and of his widow Mary Russell, as well as for the genealogical particulars of the Chesters of Wethersfield, which I have reprinted (see p. 19) from *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register*.

I have also to thank the Rev. W. G. Dimock Fletcher, Vicar of St. Michael's, Shrewsbury, for much valuable assistance in examining and verifying the Chester Wills in the Leicester Registry, and the entries in the Blaby Registers, which are but imperfectly given in Nichols' *History of Leicestershire*. The note on the family of Freer, and the additional memoranda, printed on the two last pages of the Appendix, were also kindly added by Mr. Fletcher.

EDMOND CHESTER-WATERS.

Hammersmith,
6th May, 1886.

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